

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 38 of 1875.]

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 18th September 1875.

THE *Bungpore Dik Praddsh*, of the 24th August, complains that the Bengali used in the law courts is extremely uncouth and ungrammatical; and that it is only the indifference of Government to this subject that encourages the ignorant omlahs to persist in using it. It is a curious mixture of English, Sanskrit, Persian, Urdu, and Hindi words, without any regard to grammar, and often void of sense. We would not, however, like to see a learned Sanskrit vocabulary introduced into the courts. What we want is a simple and intelligible style of the vernacular. Government could easily help to bring about this needful change by requiring a correct knowledge of their vernacular in all native officers concerned, and making it a condition of obtaining appointments and promotions in the public service.

BUNGPORE DIK  
PRADDASH,  
August 24th, 1875.

2. The *Moorsheadabad Patrika*, of the 8th September, regrets to notice that Government betrays undue haste in connection with the matter of making an inventory of the private property of the Nawab Nazim of Moorsheadabad. Under orders from the Governor-General, the local officials stationed a large number of police constables on all sides of the palace, and importuned his eldest son to deliver the keys. What was the use of such a menacing demonstration, when, from his peaceful and law-observing character, it was known that no opposition would be made? It is to be observed with sorrow, that, after a short time, there will hardly be left any thing for the Nawab Nazim to call his own.

MOORSHEADABAD  
PATRIKA,  
September 8th, 1875.

3. A correspondent of the same paper directs the attention of Government to the distress, arising from poverty, among the inhabitants of some villages under Bharatpore thana, in the Moorsheadabad district. Their sufferings were severe during the famine; and it was only through the relief afforded by Government, that they were enabled partially to tide over their difficulties. But the sudden close of relief operations, and the rather prompt demand of Government, calling on them to repay the loans of grain and money granted them in their distress, have increased their sufferings. Everything they have is put up to sale to meet the Government demand, which they had hoped would be made, at the earliest, after three years. It is suggested that a portion of the surplus grain in the hands of Government should be sent to the Bharatpore thana for their relief.

MOORSHEADABAD  
PATRIKA.

4. The *Burrisal Bártábaha*, of the 8th September, remarks that the Road cess presses heavily on the inhabitants of the Backergunge District, who are extremely poor. There are but few roads here, and even these are all in a wretched state for want of repairs. There is, moreover, but very little need of roads in this district, which possesses ample means of communication by rivers; so that the imposition of the road cess is not at all justifiable

BURRISAL  
BARTABAHA.  
September 8th, 1875.



in Backergunge. In connection with roads, the attention of the local authorities is drawn to the inconvenience to the public, caused by the arbitrary manner in which the several ferries in the district are worked by the ferry-men.

BISHWA DUT,  
September 8th, 1876.

5. The *Bishwa Dút*, of the 8th September, fears that the out-turn of the crops will again be but partial this year ; and if it really does turn out so, as there is every reason to fear it will, there will be nothing to save the people from starvation. Government relief, which only reaches the lowest classes, and serves to enrich a number of officers only, will be of no avail to the majority. Last year's famine, and the high prices, that continue to rule even to the present day, have completely prostrated the people. The weather and crop reports are not at all favorable. While some provinces have been completely submerged by the floods, which have destroyed the crops, in others the same disastrous consequences have followed from drought, or at best insufficient showers. The responsible rulers are besought to bestow timely consideration on the subject, and to leave the metropolis for the purpose of enquiring into the condition of the poor. We are no alarmists ; almost the whole country will bear us out in the views we have expressed above.

BISHWA DUT.

6. The same paper, in a lengthy editorial on the practice of usury, asks Government to do something towards checking this evil, which has reached an alarming height. It should not any longer close its eyes to the gradual spread of a practice which has impoverished a hard-working peasantry, and has enriched the selfish class of mahajuns at their expense. So deep is their poverty, and so thoroughly beholden are they to money-lenders, that even their thatched huts are mortgaged. They literally live from hand to mouth. It is high time that, Government should interfere and fix by law the maximum rate of interest at one per cent.

BISHWA DUT.

7. The same paper, in dwelling on the loyalty of the people of India, remarks that, of all the nations in the world, the Hindus are the most loyal ; though it has now been very common with a number of low Anglo-Indians to question their loyalty. Even when the hearts of the people are sad with the various misfortunes that have befallen them, they are making preparations to welcome the Prince of Wales.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
September 9th, 1876.

8. The *Dacca Darshak*, of the 9th September, is gratified to notice, that Government has resolved to appoint some competent natives to higher judicial offices, such as District and Additional Judgeships, which have been hitherto monopolized by Europeans. This will do much good to the country, and enable Government, without prejudicing the public interest, to avail itself of the services of competent men, on a lower scale of pay than what is allowed to European Judges, and to strengthen the British rule in India by promoting good feelings between the rulers and the governed.

DACCA PRAKASH.

9. The same paper fears, that the haste betrayed by the Central Committee at Calcutta, appointed to select text-books for the scholarship examinations, will not enable them to include, in their catalogue, school-books of approved merit by mofussil authors ; many of whom are still ignorant of the objects, or even of the existence, of the Committee. The native authors in and around Calcutta alone are likely to be benefited by this hasty way in which, we fear, the Committee is doing the duties entrusted to it. Government should therefore call upon the Inspectors of Schools in the mofussil to submit to the Central Committee catalogues of the best school-books published within the circles under their charge, and order that the general catalogue should be prepared from these.



10. The *Amrita Basar Patrika*, of the 9th September, regrets to notice that the Annual Reports of the Divisional Commissioners are in general sadly deficient in various important matters. The defect is partly due to their ignorance, and in some measure also to the policy of the British Government, which often precludes them from giving publicity to matters of grave importance. There are topics, again, which are very unsatisfactorily dealt with. Thus, in the Report of the Presidency Division, though some care has evidently been taken to make it an elaborate one, still it might have been made still better and more exhaustive if greater care had been bestowed on it. The Commissioner should have dwelt, at some length, on the relations subsisting between the peasantry and the mahajun class. He should have remarked on the increase or otherwise in the number of the lending class, the condition of the peasantry, and the probable percentage of those that would resort to them if there had been no scarcity. He should have observed on the increase or decrease, if there has been any, in the prevailing rate of interest, and accounted for the change. The feelings with which the creditor and the debtor classes regarded each other should also have received some notice at his hands. It behoves Government to possess information on these grave matters. The relations between Indigo-planters and the tenantry, and the condition of zemindars and ryots, should have obtained greater consideration.

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
September 9th, 1875.

11. The *Education Gazette*, of the 10th September, in an article on the "Statistics of production in Bengal," and the measures hitherto taken by Government to obtain them, makes the following observations :—The disputes, about the determination of a rent-rate, which now prevail among the people, might be easily settled if a general knowledge of the statistics of production could be obtained, in reference to the quality of the soil and the nature and the out-turn of the crops. Government should endeavour to obtain correct information on these points, before seeking to settle the question of a rent-rate.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
September 10th, 1875.

12. The same paper does not see the need of enacting any law for reducing the working hours of the laborers in Indian mills. The laborers themselves have never complained of over-work. They are accustomed to work ten or twelve hours every day. So that any interference, on the part of Government, with the management of the mills, or with their hours of work, is quite uncalled for; nay, such a course will seriously injure their interests, and place them at a disadvantage with the mills of Manchester.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

13. The *Bhārat Sangskāra*, of the 10th September, notices, with some surprise, that the opinions of no less than ten Divisional Commissioners are curiously coincident on the system of summary trials. No appeals being allowed, it is possible Government have not had the means of judging whether the system has been productive of injustice, from the sufferers being unable, owing to their poverty, to bring it to the notice of the higher authorities; though it cannot be denied that cases of oppression under this system have from time to time appeared in the newspapers. Even if we were to believe, according to the Commissioners' reports, that there had been no injustice, and that the Magistrates had all exercised their powers with due caution, still would that be a sufficient argument to prove that these powers will not be abused in future, and that, what was but previously cautiously availed of, will henceforth be not freely exercised? If Government wishes to impart justice to its subjects, the smaller the number of summary

BHARAT SANGSKARAK,  
September 10th, 1875.



trials, and the greater the caution with which they are decided, the better will it be for all. But if, on the other hand, to dispose of a large number of suits be the only object aimed at, some machinery, or an astrologer, might then be more advantageously made to take the place of judicial officers. Government is besought to keep a sharp eye on the working of the system; the moment its attention is turned from it, the people will be ruined.

BHARAT  
SANGKARAK.  
September 10th, 1875.

14. The same paper has a long article communicated to it on the men of wealth and courts of law. The writer remarks with regret that laws and the sentences of courts are only effective as regards the poor; but they have no power over the wealthy, who by means of their wealth can always manage to evade them.

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
September 11th, 1875.

15. The *Grámbártá Prákáshiká*, of the 11th September, complains that the Magistrates and other executive officers, during their tours in the mofussil, in the cold season, do not mix with the natives, and are not at all anxious to seek information as to the wants and grievances of the people entrusted to their care. They rarely go out of their tents. No good accrues from this state of things. These tours again are so few and far between, that some important places in a district are not visited by them even once in a year. It may be urged that the excessive work required of the Magistrates hardly leaves them leisure for these rural tours. Government may, however, authorize them to make over a portion of their less important duties to their assistants, and attend more fully to the matter of these mofussil tours. It is to be regretted that the district officers are yet so unwilling to act according to the noble example of Sir Richard Temple, who frequently invites natives to Belvidere. But unlike His Honor, the officers in question seek to avoid, while on their tours, the contact of natives by every means in their power.

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA.

16. The same paper complains that the Comerciolly post office is located in a miserable hut, in the midst of a low field. The floor is damp, and is the favorite abode of snakes. There is no good road to it. Government is besought to order its removal to the vicinity of the railway-station and the market place, and have it in a pucca building.

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA.

17. The same paper suggests, that even if the station at Goalundo be given up, the main line to it should be kept open, for the convenience of the majority of the passengers, who go to Dacca by this way.

HINDU HITOISHINI,  
September 11th, 1875.

18. Adverting to the large number of drunkards in Chittagong, the *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 11th September, asks Government to enact a law for the purpose of checking the growth of intemperance among the natives. It will not do to rest satisfied with simply raising the excise duties. A rule should be framed, to the effect, that no native, if he is addicted to drinking, will be competent to receive any Government appointment.

SADHARANI,  
September 12th, 1875.

19. The *Sádháraní*, of the 12th September, is gratified to note that through the exertions of some leading men in England, such as Professor Fawcett, Mr. Grant-Duff, Mr. Bright, and Sir George Campbell, the British Parliament is gradually made to take an increasing interest in India and her affairs. The approaching visit of the Prince of Wales, though it will hardly do us any direct good, is also a proof of this growing interest. This attention of England is likely to be beneficial to India.

SADHARANI.

20. The same paper complains that the munsiffs, in order to please their superiors, and thus to secure promotion, and on the other hand to make their decisions "appeal proof," seek by every means in their power to decide as many suits as possible within a short time, and in their decisions almost



always remark on the unsatisfactory character of the evidence adduced, and being in other evasive considerations. The ends of justice are defeated in this way, and suitors subjected to loss and inconvenience.

21. The *Son Prakash*, of the 13th September, is doubtful as to the correctness of the favorable opinions, given by the Divisional Commissioners, on the system of summary trials. Even if what the Commissioners state be accepted as true, is there any thing to shew that in future the Magistrates will continue to exercise the same caution in trials of this sort as they are reported to have done? The Government of India is warned against giving its assent to any proposal Sir Richard Temple may happen to make in reference to the trial of rent-suits according to this summary method. To decide a rent-suit is always a different and a far more difficult matter than the decision of a criminal case.

SON PRAKASH,  
September 13th, 1875.

22. Referring to the rigors of the present system of jail discipline, and the hardships and the rude treatment to which the prisoners are subjected by the superintendents and keepers of jails, the same paper asks his educated countrymen to form associations for the inspection of jails, with the permission of Government. Much good will be done in this way.

SON PRAKASH.

23. The *Sulabha Samachar*, of the 14th September, asks Government to give up its salt monopoly. A necessary article of daily consumption, used by all alike, should not be taxed. It should be made revenue-free; and some other article of luxury may be advantageously and properly taxed in its stead.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
September 14th, 1875.

24. The editor of the *Akhbar-ul-Akhiar*, after a lengthy dissertation on the three systems of medicine practised in India, viz. the Hindu, the Muhammadan or *Yunani*, and the English, remarks that though English doctors, are well up in anatomy and ready at dissection, yet the medicines prescribed by them are more adapted for English constitutions, and quite unsuited for the people of Hindustan; apart from which, the high fees of the doctors and exorbitant prices of medicines prevent the natives from having recourse to them; whilst the customs of the country will not allow of many availing themselves of even the benefit of the charitable dispensaries. The editor therefore begs of the Government to promote the *Yunani* system in conjunction with the now all-prevailing English one. Much money is no doubt being very laudably expended towards promoting the education and welfare of the native subjects; yet it is a great pity that the Muhammadan system of medicine has met with no favor. If enquiries were to be made, it would be found that three-fourths at least of the sick would prefer the *Yunani* system.

AKHBAR-UL-AKHIAR,  
September 1st, 1875.

25. This paper in another part says that cholera is raging in Gya.

AKHBAR-UL-AKHIAR.

26. An anonymous correspondent, writing in the month of September, from Dacca to the *Urdu Guide*, says that, though more rain has fallen this year than during past years in Dacca, yet the crops will not suffer. In consequence of the fall of hailstones in Sylhet and Comillah, both cattle and the crops have been injured. The writer goes on to say that a daring robbery recently took place in the jute godowns of Mr. Thomas, whose durwan was murdered by the thieves; but no clue has as yet been found as to the perpetrators of the deed; and it is to be remarked that murders like the above are always occurring in Dacca, but not one of the criminals has been brought to justice. There have been in this way six murders during an interval of four years, and not a single murderer has been traced.

URDU GUIDE,  
September 11th, 1875.

27. In an article headed "What benefit will be derived from the Prince's coming?" the editor of the *Behar Bandhu* remarks that every

BEHAR BANDHU,  
September 8th, 1875.



care will be taken by those who surround the Prince to see that no one with a grievance be permitted to have access to him, and that nothing be brought to his notice or observation which will tend to mar his pleasant emotions and thoughts; and all those educated persons, who are well versed in matters concerning the natives, will be carefully kept aloof. One, amongst other things, is this, that great care will be taken to impress the Prince with the idea that the Hindustani ryots have no ills to complain of, that they are satisfied with the English rule, and more than all, that in consequence of the good treatment they receive from the servants of Government, the native subjects have no grievances to place before the Prince. The editor concludes by impressing on his readers to be on the alert, and urges his fellow-countrymen to adopt measures to make themselves heard by the Prince during his visit. These measures the writer promises to publish in a future issue.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 18th September 1875.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the 18th September 1875.*

No.	Names.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákiníá, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	24th August.
2	"Suhrid" ...	Muktágáchá, Mymensing	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
3	"Moorahedabad Patriká" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	3rd September.
4	"Burrisal Bártábaha" ...	Burrisal ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
5	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rájsháhye ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
6	"Bishwa Dút" ...	Kálichát, Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
7	"Dacca Darshak" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
8	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
9	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
10	"Bhárat Sangakárah" ...	Harinávi, 24-Pergunnahs	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
11	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
13	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
14	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
15	"Som Prakásh" ...	Chángripottásh, 24-Pergunnahs.	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
16	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
17	"Sulabha Samáshar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
18	"Pratidhwani" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
19	"Samáshar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	By-weekly ...	13th and 16th September.
20	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	4th and 11th ditto.
21	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	10th to 14th ditto.
22	"Akhhár-ul-Akhiár" (in Urdu) ...	Mosufferpore ...	By-monthly ...	1st September.
23	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	11th ditto.
24	"Jám Jehán-numá" (in Persian) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
25	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi) ...	Patna ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.